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R 071054Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1365
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000502

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, NEA/PI, INR/NESA, R/MR, I/GNEA,
B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD, NEA/IPA
LONDON FOR NEA WATCHER
PARIS FOR NEA WATCHER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAQ XF KU MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS -- U.S. SOLDIERS ALLEGEDLY
INVOLVED IN ROAD RAGE INCIDENT

REF: 07 KUWAIT 0501

SUMMARY

¶11. (U) Summary and comment: The Kuwaiti English language newspaper Arab Times and two other local Arabic-language papers reported an incident today that happened approximately 24 hours ago concerning a traffic altercation between U.S. military personnel and Kuwaiti nationals (Reftel). Post proposes that replies to media queries use the talking points below.

For Background Purposes Only

¶12. (U) U.S. Army Central Command (ARCENT) is investigating the alleged incident. Embassy Kuwait and ARCENT are coordinating outreach to GOK and Kuwaiti public. Proposed press guidance in para 2 has been coordinated between Embassy and ARCENT public affairs. Post will send updated guidance when/as warranted by developments. All information on the specific details of this case should come from the Department of Defense.

Proposed Contingency Press Guidance

¶12. (U) Post proposes the following press guidance:

--We are aware of stories in the Kuwaiti press about an alleged traffic altercation in Kuwait City involving members of the U.S. military and Kuwaiti civilians on the evening of May 5th.

--U.S. military authorities are cooperating with their Kuwaiti counterparts to investigate the reported incident. Any details will come through Department of Defense channels.

--We regret any report of friction between Kuwaiti citizens and Americans in Kuwait. Kuwait has long been home to a large number of Americans, including both civilian and military personnel, and there is a long history of excellent relations.

--We are grateful for the support, cooperation, and hospitality that Kuwait has shown our military. This security cooperation is extremely important for both the United States and Kuwait.

--If asked:

--U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah K. Jones has been in personal contact with senior echelons of the Government of Kuwait about this case.

For more reporting from Embassy Kuwait, visit:

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/?cable> s

Visit Kuwait's Classified Website:

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/>

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JONES